

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An AGC circuit (70) amplifies a video signal according to a gain value output from a gain setting circuit (56). A clamp circuit (72) performs clamping of the direct current level of an output signal from the AGC circuit (70) at a clamp ability level according to a time constant set by a clamp time constant setting circuit (58). The clamp time constant setting circuit (58) receives input of the gain value generated by the gain setting circuit (56). A comparator circuit (120) compares the received gain value to a reference value, and, when the gain value exceeds the reference value, outputs a relatively large time constant. The clamp ability level of the clamp circuit (72) is controlled according to this time constant. In this manner, when the gain value is large, gradual clamping can be executed so as to minimize the influence of noise components superimposed on the direct current level, thereby suppressing transverse noise.